

PATIENCE

BY J. H. PECK.

The apostle Paul in his epistle to the Romans, 12: 12, admonishes us to be patient in tribulation. Webster defines patience: "the suffering of afflictions, pain, toil, calamity, provocation, or other evil, with a calm, unruffled temper; endurance without murmuring or fretfulness;" and tribulation: "that which occasions distress or vexation," "severe affliction."

Some people think they could endure great affliction for Christ's sake, but are not aware that the smallest trifle so irritates them that it is with difficulty they can hold their tem-

My dear friends, it seems easy enough for us to avoid the great sins in life, and even to do the great good deeds when occasion offers, but it is the little daily trials, and the little daily good deeds, that we will find ourselves remarkably deficient in when the day of judgment comes, if we don't take them into prayer.

We hear people who have been baptized, have partaken of the holy communion, have washed the saints feet, &c., speak of these things as keeping the commandments; but there are many other commandments in God's word just as important as these, that are shamefully neglected by professed Christians; prominent among which is—"be patient in tribulation."

To that woman who thinks she has lived a consistent Christian life, will be said: "Were you patient when your little girl upset the table and broke all your dishes, and spoiled your nice carpet?" "No; I cried and scolded, and distressed myself about it, not only at the time it happened, but for months afterwards." "Were you patient in the thousand and one little mishaps and unpleasant-ries that entered into the duties as wife and mother?" "No, no! I murmured, complained, found fault, and got out of patience so often, and so much that it became a kind of second nature to me, and I never thought about it, that I was forfeiting my right to the tree of life in this very way."

it into subjection, on this very point of practice; perhaps more than any other thing that is commanded in the scriptures. And here let me tell you, it is not in human nature to do it; no one can do it without the divine aid. Paul gave it to the Romans eighteen hundred years ago. When he said: "be patient in tribulation," he immediately followed it by: "continuing instant in prayer;" the very thing we need, and without which it is impossible for us to come off conquerors on the subject of patience. Instant means pressing, urgent, importunate, earnest, not deferred, immediate. Now let any one who finds himself subject to spells of irritability, fretfulness and impatience, go instantly into prayer, breathing a secret, silent petition to God for power to overcome this great evil, and continuing until all the impatience is gone. This will be a never failing remedy and will finally effect a permanent cure. The command to be patient in tribulation commands itself to our good sense and better judgment, as a reasonable one. Everything that we can correct or improve we should set to work to do so at once, quietly and calmly, and not get out of patience about it. Everything that we can not correct nor improve, but must bear, we can bear a great deal easier by keeping cool and patient. May God help us to be patient. Amen.

LOST THEIR GRIP.

When Martin Luther appeared before the diet of Worms and made the following memorable declaration: "Unless I shall be refuted and convinced by testimonies of the Holy Scriptures, or by public clear, and evident arguments and reason, I can not and will not retract anything," it was then that the Pope forever lost his grip.

When the American colonies refused to submit to taxation without representation, King George the III of England forever lost his grip.

These things are not strange. Intellectual development, directed by divine light, will never dispel error and enthroned truth, and freedom. In this enlightened age political tyranny is giving way before the advance of free government. Ecclesiastical tyranny is also steadily and surely declining. Even the Roman Catholic church in the last fifty years has made marked progress in recognizing liberty of conscience. But those ecclesiarchs, who in this age have lost their grip on the gospel liberty of the people, can never recover it again. They may threaten, entreat, urge, and attempt to cajole the people into slavish submission to their wicked ambition, but in vain. Their power has departed forever. Why should they then still hanker after the shadow and plead for an empty recognition? Such a cause excites not only contempt, but pity for poor deluded humanity.

May our heavenly Father help us all to realize our weakness, our fallibility and dependence upon him in time and in eternity. *

Dayton, Ohio.

PETRIFIED WOOD.

BY J. H. WORST.

Away back in the dim and shadowy past, long before these bare earth swells stretched away up to the horizon, vast forests clothed these plains with their dreamy shadows. By some strange transformation portions of that ancient forest still linger here in the form of rock to preserve their history imperishable; and stranger still the record is so true that every minute conformation is faithfully delineated, every peculiarity crystalized that no one need mistake their origin.

A few weeks ago I saw the imprint of

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may lose its fire and
and the hand powerless,
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Bismark, Dakota.

IS THERE

A Christmas

BY JO

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Acts 18: 28.

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chronology of the Bible with the Jews was undeniable, for they had not only the general writings of the Kings and Prophets, giving the dates of prophecies, but no doubt, in many instances, could trace these prophecies to their remote dates, in their family records. All then that was necessary for Apollon to have to hand to make these miracles, was, first, the circumstances that our Lord was born of the virgin, that his name was Emmanuel, and that he was as God with us. And such circumstances they had. **Matth. 1: 22, 23.** Then turn to Isa. 7: 14, which would give a space of time, according to the chronology of the Bible, of 742 years, from the time that the prophecy was spoken until fulfilled.

The next necessary event to occur in the birth of our Lord, is that he was born in Bethlehem, and that he was a ruler, just as we have them recorded in Matth. 2: 3. Then refer: to Micah 5: 2, which makes a lapse of about 710 years before it was fulfilled.

Then show that he was called out of Egypt. Matth. 2 : 13, 14, 15, and refer to Hosea 11 : 1, which was 740 years before fulfilled.

Then again, show that all the children of two years and under, were slain, as we have it described in Math. 2: 16, and bear in mind that such bitter weeping and great lamentation was foretold by Jeremiah, the Prophet, Jer. 31: 15, 606 years before Christ.

The Jews could not resist these things. They brought a mighty conviction to them. Men in that day were generally honest, and when convinced, they were converted.

The infidel of our time does not dare to tackle the chronology of the Bible, for he knows that the foretelling of events for hundreds, and even thousands of years, as accurately as God's holy prophets foretold them, is miraculous, and for him to begin to deny the correctness of the chronology of the Bible, and make out the dates as forged, would also make the Bible of no authority as to history, and then the infidel would mutilate his own knowledge as a being.

We once conversed with an infidel who, after being driven to it, made such a broad sweep of the Bible, when a little boy arose and asked Mr. Infidel how he knows whether he is a monkey or a man if he rejected the Bible as an authority. The infidel was willing to pass it as a joke, and said he guessed he could decide that he was a monkey. He readily saw that it was the best that could be done to evade the little boy's question, for it was obvious to all that much of the infidel's knowledge depends upon the Bible, and that there is no book so clear as it on the origin and history of man. Does he reject it, and the world of knowledge of the history of man be even tears the foundations from under his own theology, for it would actually be as the little boy said, "begin anew, and begin with nothing else but the Bible?" or does he admit that there is only from another, and then meanwhile trying to destroy its own source of knowledge.

Let them, upon the other hand, acknowledge the truthfulness of the chronology of the Bible, then they admit miracles, and the admission of one single miracle is sufficient to explode infidelity forever.

Warrensburg, Mo.

A BEAUTIFUL LEGEND.

Do you know how the site of the ancient city of Jerusalem was chosen? There were two brothers who had adjoining farms. The one brother had a large family, the other had no family. The brother with a large family said: "There is my brother with no family, I must be lonesome, and I will try to cheer him up, and I will take some sheep to his farm at night and set them down on his farm, and something about it."

over said, "My brother has a large
it is very true, and I will help him at him to sup-
ll take some of the sheaves from my farm in
netime and set them over on his farm.
Nothing about it."

work of transferring went on, night
 and night after night; but every
 thing seemed to be just as they were
 high sheaves had been subtracted from
 in, sheaves had also been added, and
 men were perplexed, and could not
 find out. But one night the brothers hap-
 pened to meet while making this generous
 offering, and the spot where they met was
 sacred that it was chosen as the site
 of Jerusalem.

...idea that wherever a kindly and loving act is performed, that is the spot fit for some temple of commemoration.

It seems to us that every denomination of Christians ought in some way, to take decided action in favor of providing other means than war for the settlement of national and international difficulties. Certainly war is barbarous, inhuman and unreasonable. Indeed there seems to be no more reason why nations should resort to brute force to settle disputes than individuals. All civilized nations provide tribunals to determine the question of right and wrong between individuals. Why not make provision for the settlement of right and wrong between nations in the same way? — *Messenger of Peace.*

POLITENESS AT HOME.

A boy who is polite to his father and mother is likely to be polite to every one else. A boy lacking politeness to his parents may have every semblance of courtesy in society, but is never truly polite in spirit, and is in danger, as he becomes familiar, of betraying his real want of courtesy.

We are all in danger of living too much for the outside world, for the impression which we make in society, coveting the good opinion of those who are in a sense a part of ourselves, and who will continue to sustain and be interested in us notwithstanding these defects of deportment and character. We say to every boy and every girl, cultivate the art of courtesy and propriety at home—in the sitting room and in the kitchen as well as in the parlor—and you will be sure in other places to deport yourselves in a becoming and attractive manner.

When one has a pleasant smile and demeanor it is a satisfaction to know that these are not on but that they belong to the person.